

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system which uses a computer network connected by communication lines to distribute merchandise data contents comprising:

5 a first computer which stores merchandise data contents in a memory thereof based on an order request to distribute said merchandise data contents placed for a specific requester at a second computer,

wherein said first computer comprises:

10 an input/output interface that receives the order request from said second computer for said merchandise data contents;

15 a controller that creates relevant data contents with respect to the requested merchandise data contents received from the second computer, assigns requester-specific data contents to said relevant data contents, and creates assigned delivery data contents.

2. The system according to Claim 1, wherein:

20 said relevant data contents are duplicated data contents of the merchandise data contents, and

25 said assigned delivery data contents are data to be distributed to another computer in the computer network.

3. The system according to Claim 2, wherein said controller controls transmission of said delivery data contents through said input/output interface to said another computer.

4. The system according to Claim 2, wherein:

30 said first computer further has a memory and said delivery data contents are stored in a memory space within said memory assigned to the specific requester, and

25 said controller reads out said delivery data contents from the memory space assigned for said requester to transmit said delivery data contents through the input/output interface to said another computer according to a delivery request from said second computer.

5. The system according to Claim 4, wherein said first computer further comprises means for judging matches between specific data contained within the delivery request and said requester-specific data assigned for said relevant data contents prior to transmission of said delivery data contents to said another computer.

30 6. The system according to Claim 4, wherein said first computer further comprises means to judge a length of time that has elapsed from the time said delivery data content was created and said first computer transmits said delivery data contents to said another computer according to said elapsed time.

7. The system according to Claim 4, wherein said first computer comprises means for deleting said delivery data contents transmitted to said another computer from said memory space.

5 8. The system according to Claim 7, wherein said means for deleting said delivery data contents from said memory space operates when a length of time that has elapsed from a time said delivery data content was created exceeds a predetermined length.

9. The system according to Claim 2, wherein said first computer comprises:
means for storing said relevant data contents in a memory space assigned to a requester; and

10 means for recording said merchandise data contents, wherein
said first computer, based on relevant data contents stored in a memory space assigned to said requester according to a delivery request from said second computer, reads out said merchandise data contents to the relevant data contents and transmits said merchandise data to another computer.

15 10. The system according to Claim 9, wherein said another computer is the second computer.

11. The system according to Claim 2, wherein said first computer comprises:
means for storing in a memory space an identifier of relevant data contents; and
means for recording said merchandise data contents,
wherein said first computer, according to a delivery request, reads out said merchandise data contents based on the stored identifier and transmits out said merchandise data contents to said another computer.

12. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said merchandise includes books and said merchandise data content is information concerning books.

25 13. The system according to Claim 2, wherein the second computer in the communication network includes:

an input means for inputting the order request, an input/output interface to transmit the order request, and a display.

30 14. The system according to Claim 13, wherein the first computer includes means for transmitting a delivery data contents list to the second computer when a plurality of order requests for a specific requester are received, the display of the second computer displays the data content list, and the input means of the second computer allows selection of a desired one of the plurality of order requests to be delivered

15. The system according to Claim 2, wherein the another computer is the second computer.

16. A delivery device, which transmits merchandise data contents to a requester according to an order request from a terminal device connected to a communication network, comprising:

a first memory space that stores said merchandise data contents;
means for creating relevant data contents related to said merchandise data
contents according to an order request from said terminal device;
means for assigning requester-specific data contents to said relevant data
contents and for creating assigned data contents; and
a second memory space that stores said assigned data contents.

17. The delivery device according to Claim 16, wherein:
said relevant data content is duplicated data contents of said merchandise data
contents, and
said assigned data contents is data contents to be distributed to a second
computer.

18. The delivery device according to Claim 17, further comprising means for reading out said delivery data contents from said second memory space and for transmitting said delivery data contents to a terminal within the communication network.

19. The delivery device according to Claim 17, wherein a separate second memory space is prepared for each said requester.

20. The delivery device according to Claim 17, further comprising means for transmitting a data contents list to the terminal device when a plurality of said delivery data contents exists for the requester.

21. The delivery device according to Claim 18, further comprising means for judging matches between the content of a delivery request from said terminal device and said requester-specific data contents when said delivery data content is transmitted by said means for transmitting.

22. The delivery device according to Claim 17, wherein said means for transmitting said delivery data contents only when a length of time that has elapsed since the order request is within predetermined period.

23. The delivery device according to Claim 17, further comprising means for deleting said delivery data content from said second memory space when said means for transmitting transmits said delivery data contents.

24. The delivery device according to Claim 16, further comprising:

5 means for storing in the second memory space an identifier of relevant data contents; and

10 means for recording said merchandise data contents in the first memory space, wherein said delivery device reads out said merchandise data content from the first memory space based on the stored identifier and transmit said merchandise data contents to a terminal in the communication network.

15 25. A method to distribute merchandise data contents using a computer network connected by communication lines, comprising the steps of:

receiving an order request at a first computer in the network from a specific requester requesting merchandise data contents;

duplicating requested merchandise data contents;

20 preparing delivery data contents for the specific requester by adding requester-specific data to the duplicated data contents; and

25 holding the delivery data contents until a subsequent delivery request for delivery is received.

26. The method according to Claim 25, further comprising a step of distributing said delivery data contents to another computer according to the delivery request, which is independent from said order request.

27. The method according to Claim 25, further comprising steps of:

25 storing the prepared delivery data contents in a memory space assigned to said specific requester,

reading out said delivery data contents from the assigned memory space according to said delivery request, and

distributing said delivery data contents to the specific requester.

28. The method according to Claim 27, wherein said delivery data content is read

30 out from said memory space and distributed when requester-specific data included in said delivery request and said requester-specific data within said delivery data contents match.

29. The method according to Claim 27, wherein said delivery data content is read out from said memory space and distributed if a length of time that has elapsed between said order request and said delivery request is within a predetermined period.

30. The method according to Claim 27, further comprising a step of outputting a delivery data list stored in said memory space to a requester.

31. The method according to Claim 25, wherein said requester-specific data held within said delivery data contents includes data prohibiting duplication of said merchandise data contents.
5

32. The method according to Claim 25, wherein said step of preparing said delivery data contents is executed after settlement of payment by said requester for said merchandise data contents.

33. The method according to claim 28, wherein the requester-specific data includes a password.
10

34. The method according to claim 25, further comprising a step of storing said duplicated merchandise data contents in a memory space assigned for merchandise data contents.

35. The method according to claim 25, wherein when a plurality of order requests for a specific requester are received, the method further comprises a step of transmitting a delivery data contents list to the second computer, and upon receipt of a selection by the second computer, the selected order request is delivered.
15